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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,512	09/20/2005	Siegfried Nyssen	PMP-0001	1902
	7590 12/18/200 TE, ZELANO & BRA	EXAMINER		
2200 CLAREN		THEODORE, MAGALI P		
SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON,	VA 22201		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1791	
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
			12/18/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

		Application	on No.	Applicant(s)				
	ssi a a A a Cara O a a a a a a	10/549,51	2	NYSSEN, SIEGFRIED				
O	ffice Action Summary	Examiner		Art Unit				
		Magali P.	Théodore	1791				
<i> The</i> Period for Rep	MAILING DATE of this communicately	tion appears on the	cover sheet with the c	correspondence ad	ddress			
WHICHEVI - Extensions o after SIX (6) - If NO period - Failure to rep Any reply rec	ENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR ER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAIL If time may be available under the provisions of 37 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communic for reply is specified above, the maximum statutor by within the set or extended period for reply will, eived by the Office later than three months after the term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	LING DATE OF TH 7 CFR 1.136(a). In no ever ation. ry period will apply and wi by statute, cause the appl	IIS COMMUNICATION ent, however, may a reply be tin II expire SIX (6) MONTHS from ication to become ABANDONE	N. nely filed the mailing date of this of D (35 U.S.C. § 133).	·			
Status								
1)⊠ Resn	onsive to communication(s) filed o	n 11/17/2008						
· <u> </u>	• •	☐ This action is n	on-final					
<i>'</i> —	, -			secution as to the	e merits is			
<i>7</i> —	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
Disposition of	Claims							
- 4)⊠ Clain	n(s) <u>1-24</u> is/are pending in the appl	lication.						
·—	4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.							
	5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.							
•	n(s) is/are rejected.							
	n(s) is/are objected to.							
•	n(s) <u>1-24</u> are subject to restriction a	and/or election red	uirement.					
·		aria, or olootion roq	direttiett.					
Application Pa								
•	pecification is objected to by the E		_					
· ·	10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.							
• •	ant may not request that any objection		-	* *				
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).								
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.								
Priority under	35 U.S.C. § 119							
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some coll None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 								
2) Notice of Dr 3) Information	ferences Cited (PTO-892) aftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO- Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) /Mail Date	948)	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:	ate				

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Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 8-21 in the reply filed on November 17, 2008 is acknowledged. Upon further consideration, the previous restriction requirement has been withdrawn and replaced by restriction requirement below.

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-7, drawn to a method of making a plastic skin by powder sintering with a sintering tool that has a separating web and an inflatable sealing edge.

Group II, claim(s) 8-21, drawn to an apparatus for making a plastic skin by powder sintering with a sintering tool that has a separating web and an inflatable sealing edge.

Group III, claims 22-24, drawn to a plastic part comprising a plastic skin by powder sintering with a sintering tool that has a separating web and an inflatable sealing edge.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The technical feature which links the claims of Groups I and III is a sintering tool that has a separating web

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and an inflatable sealing edge. Whether or not any particular technical feature makes a contribution over the prior art and therefore constitutes a "special technical feature" is considered with respect to novelty and inventive step. (MPEP [R-6] 1850 II.) As evidenced by Atsumi et al. (JP 2000-108148), the separating web (figure 1, between 36 and 38) and the inflatable sealing edge (figure 3:42) are known in the art. Therefore, the claimed technical feature fails to define a contribution over the prior art and unity of invention is lacking between these two groups.

3. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Magali P. Théodore whose telephone number is (571) 270-3960. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina A. Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-1176. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Magali P. Théodore/

Examiner, Art Unit 1791

/Christina Johnson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791